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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 | **10:00 AM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the City Building Committee on March 2, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Councillor, K. Aylwin at 10:02 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 8 - Councillor K. Aylwin
Councillor A. Kungl
A. McNair - Nature Barrie
E. Jacoby-Hawkins
E. vanWesenbeeck
J. Northcote
S. Diaz - SMDHU
T. Searls

Absent: 2 - M. Kavanagh
W. Steimle

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, T. McArthur
Infrastructure Planning Engineer, B. Gratrix
Manager of Business Performance and Environmental Sustainability, S. Brunet
Manager of Parks and Forestry, K. Bradley
Supervisor of Traffic Operations and Community Safety, J. Sharp
Supervisor of Urban Forestry and Natural Areas Stewardship, K. Rankin
Transit Operations Planner, M. McConnell.

ALSO PRESENT:
J. Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance
E. Wyatt, Ontario Clean Air Alliance.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

ONTARIO CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE - PHASE-OUT OF GAS FIRED POWER PLANTS IN ONTARIO

Jack Gibbons and Eve Wyatt from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance provided a presentation regarding it campaign to promote the phase out of gas-fired power plants in the Province of Ontario.

Mr. Gibbons discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Ontario's historic and forecast greenhouse gas (GHG) from Electric Power Plants from 2005 to 2040;
- A summary on the causes of rising emissions in Ontario;
- The plan to achieve Ontario's 2030 Climate Target;
- The strategy to phase-out Ontario's gas-fired power plants by 2030:
- A cost comparison on Ontario's electricity options; and
- The organizations and Ontario municipalities supporting the phase-out of gas-fired power plants.

In conclusion, Mr. Gibbons asked for a resolution from the City of Barrie in support of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance initiative in which they are promoting the phase-out of Ontario's gas-fired power plants, which is intended to help the City of Barrie, other municipalities, and the Province of Ontario achieve their pollution reduction targets and the cost-effective alternatives to do so.

Members of Committee and City staff asked a number of questions to Mr. Gibbons and Ms. Wyatt and received responses.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE - PHASE-OUT OF GAS FIRED POWER PLANTS IN ONTARIO

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario is planning to increase electricity generation and greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants by more than 300% by 2030 and by more than 400% by 2040, reversing more than a third of the greenhouse gas pollution reductions achieved by phasing out our coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS Greenhouse gas pollution is causing temperatures in Canada to rise at more than double the rate of the rest of the world, causing impacts to the operations and citizens of the City of Barrie; and

WHEREAS one of the City of Barrie's strategic priorities is fostering a safe and healthy City by building a greener Barrie and adapting and mitigating climate change; and

WHEREAS the City of Barrie is taking measures to mitigate and adapt to the climate impacts caused by increasing greenhouse gas pollution; and

WHEREAS the planned increase in electricity-related greenhouse gas pollution will reduce the effectiveness of the City of Barrie's greenhouse gas reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS there are feasible, cost-effective alternatives to increasing gas-fired electricity generation without increasing greenhouse gas pollution at costs well below the current price for Ontario's nuclear energy (9.6 cents/kWh), including:

- Energy efficiency investments;
- Low-cost, distributed, renewable energy, providing employment in Ontario communities and restoring our leadership in this industry;
- The purchase of low-cost power offered by the Province of Quebec from its existing hydroelectric generating stations; and
- Using Quebec's system of reservoirs like a giant battery to back-up made in Ontario renewable power and eliminating the need to use gas-fired power plants for this purpose.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the City of Barrie requests the Government of Ontario to place an interim cap of 2.5 megatonnes per year on the greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fired power plants and develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to help the City of Barrie, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to meet their climate targets.

2. That this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Health, all local MPPs and MPs, the Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus (OBCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the President of Hydro Quebec and the Premier of Quebec.

This matter was recommended to City Building Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 3/2/2021.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

PARKS MASTER PLAN

Kevin Bradley, Manager of Parks and Forestry provided a recap of the discussion of the last Committee meeting concerning the possibility of a Parks Master Plan for every park within the City.

Mr. Bradley discussed the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was focused on outdoor play sports, and the possibility of a more holistically approach as a Park Strategic Plan to give an overriding vision of how the City plans and designs for redevelopment of existing parks or the design of future parks.

The Committee asked questions to Mr. Bradley concerning future opportunities for a Park Strategic Plan. He advised that staff are currently working to update the Waterfront Master Plan and the Active Transportation Master Plan and that any other plans are still at the discussion staff level.

UPDATE ON NATURALIZATION OF CROMPTON PARK SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor, A. Kungl provided an update on the progress of the enhancement of naturalization at Crompton Park. She advised that the sub-committee met with City staff and were able to scope some of the Park's parameters and discuss the next steps.

Councillor Kungl advised that once restrictions such as physical distancing protocols have been lifted due to the pandemic, they would like to invite residents to walk the space, possibly hold stakeholder group walking tours, to engage the public as to where they would like to see enhancements within the park's walking paths, and a more formal education awareness plan through signage.

Councillor Kungl noted that she will report back to the Committee once more information becomes available.

UPDATE ON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP WEBPAGE

Councillor, A. Kungl provided an update on the City's website associated with the former Active Transportation Working Group. She encouraged the Committee to participate in the survey recently emailed to Committee members to establish the content, functionality, and other aspects that they believe would be beneficial for the public concerning active transportation in the City.

Councillor Kungl asked that Committee members provided their feedback prior February 12th, 2021 in order to compile the information for the Committee's next meeting.

PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY CITY - POTENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM

Councillor, A. Kungl discussed the possibility of a Pedestrian Friendly City Pilot Program and whether it would align with the Committee's mandate.

Councillor Kungl commented on the opportunities of a Pedestrian Friendly City such as the possibility of prioritizing bike and walking lanes, the potential improving City assets, identifying different infrastructure improvements, the potential of multi-partnerships with organizations, further transit plans, to connect communities and route concepts and exploring ways to promote active transportation sustainability with a healthy project from a well-being approach.

Councillor Kungl suggested inviting Patrick Feng, Project Lead on the Healthy Barrie Initiative to a future Committee meeting to provide further information. She noted that Healthy Barrie is a partnership between the City of Barrie, the Barrie and Community Family Health Team, the Family Medicine Teaching Unit at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit, and the University of Toronto, that has

been researching important urban health challenges to improve overall population health in the community. The Committee agreed to invite Mr. Feng to a future meeting.

The Committee agreed that its a good idea to facilitate the City of Barrie as Pedestrian Friendly City.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

CHAIRMAN